



Amy Yee Tennis Center Improvements Public Meeting

March 15, 2007, 6:30 – 8:00 PM
Center Park Community Room

Meeting Notes

Project Scope:

The Pro Parks Levy Opportunity Fund provides \$200,000 to renovate the existing four outdoor tennis courts this summer and provide design for the two new tennis courts. Additional funding will be needed to construct the two new tennis courts

There were 19 attendees from Amy Yee Tennis Center Advisory Council, USTA, STA, Garfield High School tennis team and coach, etc.

Introduction of Project, Scope and Schedule

Shwu-jen Hwang, Landscape Architect from Seattle Park presented the background information, project scope, schedule, budget, public input and mile stone decisions made up to date. (Refer to document Project Fact Sheet and Input & Decision Making).

- When can we provide input for long range plan? (Response: You can provide your inputs to planning section any time.)
- Would like Parks to consider provide pickle ball outdoor play in park's facility.

Existing Court Renovation Presentation & Discussion

Shwu-jen Hwang presented the proposed existing court renovation

The renovation of four existing outdoor tennis courts will remove and replace net post concrete footings, install geo-textile fabric and 2" asphalt overlay, install tennis surface meeting ITF certified surface (Plexipave system or Nova System), replace chain-link fence fabric and fence posts at south side of each court and adjust existing stairs and railing to meet codes.

The proposal for the two new tennis courts will match the existing outdoor tennis courts design with stairs going up to the third level, concrete walks and viewing area to the east, accessible asphalt walk to the west, drainage and storm water improvements.

(Refer to document Project Fact Sheet, Proposal)

- Madrona tennis court resurfacing was poorly done. (Response: will visit and check.)
- The asphalt tennis surface is hard. Does Parks consider other tennis surface? (Response: There is cushioned court surface, but not considered for this project due to budget limit.)
- How do you access courts without going thru stairs? (Response: Enter from the gate at the upper terrace and thru the asphalt walk on the west side.)
- Players and spectators tend to gather in viewing area and cross tennis courts to other side. Would like to see direct access to each court with short court dividers (4'-10') between two courts to catch tennis balls and prevent court crossing traffic. (Response: One additional gate between two courts will be added on the first level. However, due to grade change, the gate in between two courts will not be added for 2nd and 3rd level tennis courts. The idea of short divider between two courts has been reviewed by related park staffs and Parks Internal Review and was not proposed for this project due to safety concern and potential cracks from additional concrete footings in the tennis court. If budget allow, the project will add a directional sign at the southwest corner.)

- Maybe provide bench at east asphalt walkway will minimize the court cross traffic?
(Response: The west asphalt walk is lower than adjacent tennis court plus the existing 8' wide is needed for maintenance access. The project did add bench on the west court.)

New Court Schematic Design Presentation & Discussion

Shwu-jen Hwang presented the proposed schematic design for the two new courts.

The proposal for the two new tennis courts will match the existing outdoor tennis courts design with stairs going up to the third level, concrete walks and viewing area to the east, accessible 8' wide asphalt walk to the west with drainage and storm water improvements. Tennis court design will meet the standard.

- Is lighting provided for this project? (Response: No, there is not enough funding to cover the lighting cost. However, there are 7 existing electric outlets on each side of the existing courts for the potential tennis light fixtures. The lighting company has estimated for the (4) existing courts a full cut-off (Soft lighting) system would cost about \$80,000 installed, assuming the foundations and existing conduit/service is re-useable. If new conduit/foundations & service is required, additional \$40,000.00 will be added. For the (2) new courts, the estimated cost is about \$100,000.00 including all underground. The cut-off system has been used at Cal Anderson, Meadowbrook (adjacent to Nathan Hale High School) and other courts where spill to adjacent properties is a factor.
- The lighting for tennis court is desired but is not necessary if there is budget constraint. In winter, you won't play in the evening when it's mostly cold and raining. In summer, you can play tennis late due to the long daylight hours in this area.
- There are also lighted courts available.
- The electrician at Parks recently repaired the electric plugs at the existing outdoor tennis court per Mya Lockwood's request. The ball machines could be used in outdoor courts.
- What's the life cycle of the proposed repair? (Response: Usually the life cycle for asphalt paving is 50 years. The asphalt overlay may provide about 20 years use life. However, it is recommended that tennis acrylic surfacing need to be resurfaced every 7 years. Parks is behind regular maintenance schedule due to budget shortage.)
- Is there a sign to deter the bicycling and skateboard activities in tennis courts?
(Response: If budget allows, will add the sign.)
- To have six courts is extremely important for the high school tennis match. There is also safety concern about the cracks and sleek surface when the surface became old.
- Do Parks charge the use of outdoor tennis courts, how much revenue does it generate?
(Parks get about \$3,000 to \$9,000 revenue from the outdoor tennis courts.)
- This facility is the regional hub for tennis play. Feel the proposed design is outdated and missing the opportunity to provide more modern and up-to-date tennis court design.
(From the same attendant suggesting separate gates to each court with short dividers between two courts.) (Response: The existing court design, though done 30 years ago, still meets the current tennis court construction standard by American Sports Builders Association. This particular site does have the constraints of limited space and sloping site. Under such constraints, the existing tennis court design has provided tennis courts meeting up-to-date standards, walkways to courts, spectator areas, accessible path to tennis courts and pre-installed electric outlets for potential lighting. Not bad!)

Fundraising Update

Mark Wennerlind, Vice President from Amy Yee Tennis Center Advisory Council gave an update on the fund-raising effort. The Amy Yee Tennis Center Advisory Council has been applied for the Large Project Neighborhood Matching Fund, King County Youth Sports Utility Grant, USTA Grant, etc.

There are two regional staffs from USTA presented at this meeting, Bill Leong and Gail Benzler, to understand this project and assist with the grant application. To be eligible for the USTA Grant, the tennis court design must meet the standard in terms of dimension, tennis surface material, grade, etc. Applicant needs to go through assessment.

Other suggestions were also raised in the meeting such as identifying / connecting to stake holders, politicians, potential donors and user groups and developing Master Plan as funding base for future implementation.

Meeting ends at 8:00pm